

Dating, Love, and Marriage Bible Study

Topics for singles

How should I grow while single? What are the boundaries before I marry? Should I remain single?

2023.01.06 – Week 2

Open Questions (ask more @ ljl.church/datingbiblestudy/askquestion):

- How should I go about finding my mate when the concept of “dating” is not Biblical?

On the whiteboard (to be covered later)

- Is it sometimes good to remain single for the rest of our lives? (Possibly week 7)
- How do I deal with non-believing spouse?

Group Ice breakers:

- Does God want me to be married? If so, how does God want me to prepare? If not, what is my rationale? And how should I develop?

Goals for singles (how to grow today):

- **Get your relationship with God and others right first (You are responsible for yourself, 2Corinthian 5:10)**
 - o If you get married, does it really resolve all your problems? Consider:
 - Your relationship with God (God)
 - Your relationship with your parents and friends (others)
 - Your view of yourself (respect, esteem, efficacy [skillsets/pursuits/results])
 - What would happen if you are not comfortable with yourself and find a mate? Are you comfortable with yourself? Why or why not? What actions can you take?
- **Prepare your heart to love and respect your spouse. (Ephesians 5:21-33)**
 - o Men cannot love others (true love) without knowing the **source of love**
 - o Women cannot respect others without having a respect for the **One who deserves it.**
 - Love and respect can be practiced among other believers – called small groups
 - o The purpose of marriage - (Not to be loved and respected)... but to love and respect
 - Men, to die for the wife, as Jesus loved the Church – yes, do the dishes!
 - Women, to respect the husband though you may feel other men are (or you are!)
 - o God tends to couple us with people who provoke our greatest weaknesses, so that we would be perfected by the end of our lives.
- **Trusting God to find the perfect mate**
 - o Sad environment today with people not recognizing the blessings of marriage and having counterfeit love in mind: meet people then break up when “feeling” declines. **Counter uncertainty with faith.**
 - o God always provides the best. Pray, rely on your small group to pray with you, grow as an individual, and wait on God to provide. (See Genesis 24, how Isaac got his perfect wife).

Boundaries until marriage:

- Until you officially marry, you must consider everyone as brothers and sisters. (1Timothy 5:1-2)
 - o Imagine you are with the spouse of the other person in everything you do. Keep that boundary to keep the woman pure for her husband and the man pure for his wife.

Men to pursue women:

- From the survey last time, and based on various conversations and my own experience, men should initiate in prayer, action, and showing love.
 - o Men: Don't fear. Have faith that God will make things [finances] right in your life. Fall in love. Ask God in prayer. Rely on your small group to walk with you.

Genesis 29:17-20 (NLT)

17... Rachel had a beautiful figure and a lovely face. 18Since Jacob was in love with Rachel, he told her father, "I'll work for you for seven years if you'll give me Rachel, your younger daughter, as my wife." 19"Agreed!" Laban replied. "I'd rather give her to you than to anyone else. Stay and work with me." 20So Jacob worked seven years to pay for Rachel.

But his love for her was so strong that it seemed to him but a few days.

Ephesians 5:21-33 (NLT)

21And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. 24As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. 25For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's word. 27He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. 28In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. 29No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. 30And we are members of his body. 31As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one." 32This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. 33So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Questions	Verse(s)	Answer
Who does the submitting?	21	
Wives, how are they to submit to the husbands?	22, 24, 33	
How would you compare husband being head of his wife (and family)?	23-24	
Husbands, how are they to love their wives?	25, 28-30, 33	
Recognizing men and women are imperfect and selfish by nature, how can we make sense of these verses?	26-27	
Leadership question: Who is responsible for the well being of their family? (spouse/family feeling safe and secure, direction of faith, sacrificing self when needed)	Entire passage	
Leadership question: "For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself." – what happens when husbands stop making their wives a priority?	28	

Discussion Questions:

- Which above do you struggle with?
- Would you like to improve on any of the above with others in your small group?

Actions to Take:

- **Grow as an individual.** Your existing problems will only amplify after marriage.
 - o Be comfortable with yourself, as if you would be single forever (yet, trusting God for your perfect mate)
 - o Prepare your heart to be able to **love** and **respect** the one person whom God will give you.
 - o Trust God in His timing. Pray and rely on your small group when lonely or hurting.
- Set proper **boundaries** and **pursue** the person when God provides the opportunity and heart.